

ANNUAL REPORTS

Procurement Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee
on
Foreign Language Publications

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
Calendar Year 1957

I. Responsibilities

The Procurement Subcommittee was established by the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications under the provisions of NSCID-16, 7 March 1953. The specific responsibility of the Procurement Subcommittee is to insure, for the Director of Central Intelligence, the "coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision". (NSCID-16, par. 1). Furthermore, "such coordination shall not prejudice the maintenance of facilities necessary to meet departmental demands". (NSCID-16, par. 3).

II. Objectives and Accomplishments for 1957

a. Meetings.

The Procurement Subcommittee met regularly at least once every month.

b. To prepare a paper incorporating specific examples of the contribution overt publications have made to intelligence research.

The Subcommittee decided to bring to the attention of the Chiefs-of-Mission at Foreign Service installations the value which has accrued to U.S. intelligence through the acquisition of overt literature. There developed a project involving the advice of the Exploitation Subcommittee, whereby specific examples of intelligence targets were identified and titles of foreign publications used to develop the data required were cited. The procurement personnel at Embassy Moscow and the publications acquired and transmitted by them were chosen as a prime example. The instruction which resulted (Circular Airgram 1505, August 14, 1957, SECRET) was prepared by the State member, and was sent to Chiefs-of-Mission

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Bucharest, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw. By the close of the year, specific examples illustrating the value of foreign publications procurement undertaken by the Eastern European posts and by certain Western European posts had been compiled and were being incorporated into a similar type of instruction to the Chiefs-of-Mission in those areas.

- c. To ensure that personnel engaged in interrogation work have adequate requirements for information of foreign publications.

The Subcommittee also developed a preliminary interrogation guide on publications, to be used during interrogation proceedings overseas or domestically as a method of providing foreign publications availability or bibliographic data. Proposed originally by the O/ACSI member in connection with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED], the guide was prepared by the Subcommittee with the advice of the staff of the DRC interrogation program as well as upon the advice of APCIN [REDACTED]

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The resultant draft, specifically drawn up with respect to [REDACTED] publications, permitted simple modification to serve as a general outline of publication needs which could be brought to the attention of interrogators. The draft was submitted in June 1957 [REDACTED] for review and incorporation into existing interrogation guides.

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- d. To establish a means and schedule for reporting by members concerning the scope and product of their procurement programs, including exchanges.

During 1957, a large proportion of the meetings concerned the development of procedures and methods among the member agencies leading to better coordination of requirements for foreign publications and closer cooperation among field collectors. The initiative of the O/ACSI representative in devising a draft standard operating procedure for the benefit of the other IAC Agencies was noteworthy, and got the project underway. The opinions and experiences of well-qualified collectors were brought to the attention of the Subcommittee members through meetings attended by such individuals as Mr. Royce Lowry, former Publications Procurement Officer at Embassy Moscow, Major H. E. Tansey, former Assistant Army Attache at Embassy Moscow, as well as by researchers and other personnel engaged in the procurement and/or utilization of foreign publications.

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The discussion which took place served to emphasize the need for better coordination and cooperation, both in the field and in headquarters.

In addition to the draft procedures outlined by the O/ACSI member above, the ONI member contributed valuable advice on these matters and on the subject of exchanges as well. Reports by members of the Subcommittee or by staff members engaged in procurement operations were a regular feature of the Subcommittee's meetings during the year. The assignment for Major George Kudravetz as the AFCIN representative on the Subcommittee in October enabled the member to learn of the role of the Air Technical Liaison Officer (ATLO) at Wiesbaden. His experiences and the procurement methods developed by him had particular appropriateness to the concept of cooperation among field collectors. The USIA member related the role of the USIS research officer overseas and the relationship between his reporting duties and information gathering on the press in his area of assignment. CIA personnel who contributed data on the scope and product of their procurement programs were the area coordinators of Acquisitions Branch, CIA Library, who discussed the current acquisition operations involving full- and part-time PFO's in the USSR, Eastern Europe, Far East and Western Europe.

The subject of exchange of publications, primarily between the USSR and the West, occupied a large part of individual meetings. The proposed exchange between the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Department of State was not resolved, primarily because of the inability of the Defense agencies to make available the eighty publications requested by the Institute. The publications, issued under various activities, offices and branches of the Departments of the Navy, and Air Force were classified for the most part and could not be released. Attempts to compile an overall want list to counter the USSR request had not been successful at the year's end.

- e. To review the systems of reporting acquisitions by the member agencies and suggest improvements where needed.

The Subcommittee, at the close of the year, had begun a review of all accession lists and other reporting vehicles issued by the member agencies. Preliminary studies will not begin prior to the February 1958 meeting. It is proposed to continue this project during 1958.

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III. Objectives for 1958.

- a. To meet with primary collectors of foreign publications in the field, including representatives of the three Services and the Department of State. A Paris meeting is scheduled for mid-April 1958, to be chaired by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications. The full-time Publications Procurement Officers from London, Paris, Berlin and Cairo will be in attendance, together with representatives from State, CIA and USAFE (ATI). A similar program for the posts in the Far and South-east Asian areas, together with a meeting of all full-time PPO's in the area, is scheduled for Fall, 1958.
- b. To participate in procurement programs of the U.S. Government of potential value to intelligence (National Science Foundation, Dept. of Commerce/Office of Technical Services, etc.)
- c. To establish a practical policy on the exchange-of-publications program as related to procurement.
- d. To continue the program of evaluating overt publications for the benefit of the field collectors.
- e. To review the systems of reporting acquisitions and want lists by the member agencies and suggest improvements where needed.

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